Tragedy in Thekkadi in Kerala

854. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether an unprecedented tragedy occurred and hundreds of tourists lost their lives in Thekkadi, Kerala State in the recent past; and

(b) pending enquiry, the studies made and the advance measures conceived and the consequential action ensured to avert this kind of major mishaps in future in all the tourist spots?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The unfortunate boat accident happened at Thekkadi on 30.09.2009 in which 45 numbers of tourist lost their lives.

(b) State Government constituted a committee consisting of representatives of various Departments to conduct an emergency audit of the motorized boats operating in the public canals and other water bodies in Kerala. Moreover, Government of Kerala have strengthened security of tourists in all tourism centers.

Travel advisories issued by countries

855. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any country or countries have issued travel advisories to their citizens not to visit India or any specific part of the country;

(b) the names of the countries which have issued such advisories in the last three years;

(c) whether Government has responded to such advisories;

(d) whether the issue of such advisories which affects India's tourism have been taken up with any Heads of the Governments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e) Travel advisories have been issued by various countries from time to time, advising their citizens to avoid travel or to take precautions while traveling to areas in the country which are temporarily disturbed. The Ministry of Tourism through its overseas offices and in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian missions abroad takes up the matter regarding lifting of travel advisories as and when issued by different countries to avoid any adverse impact on tourism to the country.

Sexual harassment of foreign tourists

†856. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards increasing incidents of sexual harassment of foreign tourists;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of foreign women tourists has steeply decline after such incidents; and

(d) if so, appropriate steps being taken by Government to attract more foreign tourists and to tackle with such serious problem?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) There have been reports in the media highlighting case of harassment and misbehavior with tourists in India. However, 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Government including sexual harassment of foreign tourists. However, in order to ensure safety and security of the tourists, Ministry of Tourism has advised all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to deploy Tourist Police in one form or the other.

(c) The foreign tourist arrivals to India witnessed an increase of 5.6 % in 2008 and 14.3% in the year 2007.

(d) To increase the number of FTAs Ministry of Tourism through its India Tourism offices overseas is undertaking a series of promotional activities like advertising, participation in travel fairs, exhibitions, road shows, India evenings, seminars and workshops, Indian food and cultural festivals, publication of brochures, inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

Cities covered under JNNURM

857. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cities covered under JNNURM, State-wise;

(b) whether there is a constant demand for other big cities to be included under JNNURM; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) 65 cities have been covered under Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) component of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Infrastructure Renewal Mission (JNNURM). Details are given in the Statement (*See* below). All other cities and towns are covered under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) of JNNURM.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Request have been received for inclusion of various cities under UIG of JNNURM. The hundred days agenda of the Ministry refers to concerted effort to include cities